

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

One aspect of the present invention relates to a method to facilitate formation of seed layer portions on sidewall surfaces of a trench formed in a substrate. The method involves the steps of forming a conformal seed layer over a barrier layer disposed conformal to a trench, wherein the trench is formed in the substrate; reflecting a light beam of x-ray radiation at the seed layer sidewall portions; generating a measurement signal based on the reflected portion of the light beam; and determining a thickness of the sidewall portions based on the measurement signal while the sidewall portions are being formed over the trench.

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